

MINUTES OF MEETING WITH THE CITIZENS ACADEMY PARTICIPANTS
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANFORD
SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

The City Council met at the Sanford Municipal Center, 225 E. Weatherspoon Street, on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 5:30 P.M., in the West End Conference Room of City Hall to receive feedback from the Citizens Academy participants and an opportunity to ask questions. The following people were present:

Mayor T. Chet Mann	Council Member Sam Gaskins
Mayor Pro Tem James Williams	Council Member Rebecca Wyhof
Council Member Byron Buckels	City Clerk Bonnie Davis
Council Member Norman Charles Post, III	City Attorney Susan Patterson
City Manager Hal Hegwer	City Staff

Absent:

Council Member Jimmy Haire
Council Member Charles Taylor

Citizens Academy Participants Present: Irene Smith, Donese Pulley, Jeanne Bethea, Leslie Oldham, Brad Marin, Frank Lastowski, Joann Thaxton

Citizens Academy Absent: Elizabeth Oberkirsch, Rodney Jones

Public Information Officer Kelly Miller opened the meeting by asking participants to share their thoughts regarding the academy, any suggestions they may have to offer to make it better and also to give an opportunity to ask questions from participants and council members. Comments received were:

- It was the most fun;
- Pleasure to interact with team members and Public Information Officer Kelly Miller;
- Great tours of the Fire and Police Departments;
- Received great information from staff and department heads;
- Golf course was great; impressed with reuse of water and that the high school students use the course;
- Impressed that City makes its own street signs, takes care of its vehicles and the cleanliness of all facilities;
- Enjoyed visit to the Public Works Department, Water Treatment Plant, Waste Water Treatment Plant-interesting the water goes back into the river cleaner than the river itself;
- Observed dedication of all employees-a lot of them have been around for a long time;
- The professionalism by the city manager and staff;
- City of Sanford runs like a Swiss watch -it has managed its finances well;
- Impressed by financial briefing;
- Great presentation on long-range plans for Sanford, Downtown, parks, and transportation;
- Portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr. on memorial is a masterpiece; needs artist name listed.
- Very informational, entertaining, and fun;
- Like the way the academy was done - it was a good first step;
- Very informative and educational;

- Treated like a VIP
- Thankful for binder of information.

Suggestions were:

- Concern that the Fire Department is lean on manpower;
- Could not find the name of artist on the Martin Luther King Memorial;
- Continue to plan to make the City a walkable and safe community;
- Break up the tours of the Fire and Police Departments into two different sessions;
- Make the sessions four hours long and extend the academy to more weeks so participants can spend more time at each site;
- Hold an open house for different departments for the public;
- Update the Club house at golf course;
- Share information with different groups such as Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, etc.;
- Explain more how services are divided between City and County.

Council Member Wyhof shared that this idea was talked about at Council's retreat to have more people to understand what takes place at the City so they can be informed and share it with other citizens.

Mayor Mann stated that the inaugural class will always be remembered. They can now go out to the community and tell citizens of what they have learned and be an ambassador.

Mayor Mann and Council Member Gaskins praised Council Member Wyhof for championing the cause to host a citizens academy.

Mayor Mann asked the participants to stay for the Council meeting to be held at 7 P.M., in the Council Chambers, to be recognized for their participation.

Respectfully Submitted,

T. CHET MANN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BONNIE DAVIS, CITY CLERK